

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2020**

**CITY COUNCIL CONVENED IN SPECIAL SESSION AND WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT DEMAINE KITCHEN. ON A CALL OF THE ROLL THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS RESPONDED TO THEIR NAMES: BASIA ADAMCZAK, ANITA DAVIS, JIMMY HUGHES, LAUREN MCNALLY, JULIUS OLIVER, MIKE RAY, AND SAMANTHA TURNER, 7. DEMAINE KITCHEN WAS ABSENT.**

**COMMUNICATION**

**COM-20-97 NOTICE OF SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2020. WAS READ AND UPON MOTION OF MR. RAY WAS RECEIVED AND FILED.**

**CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION**

**RES-20-07 DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS. WAS READ THE FIRST TIME AND UPON MOTION OF MS. DAVIS THE RULES OF COUNCIL WERE SUSPENDED BY A VOTE OF YEAS, 7. NAYS, NONE.**

**THE RESOLUTION WAS THEN PLACED BEFORE COUNCIL AND PASSED BY A VOTE OF YEAS, 7. NAYS, NONE.**

**COMMENTS**

**HEALTH COMMISSIONER ERIN BISHOP SPOKE ABOUT THE YOUNGSTOWN CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S MINORITY HEALTH DIVISION, AND HEALTH ISSUES THAT AFFECT MINORITY POPULATIONS. IN 2017 YOUNGSTOWN CITY HEALTH DISTRICT (YCHD) RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE OHIO COMMISSION ON MINORITY HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A LOCAL OFFICE DEDICATED TO ELIMINATE HEALTH DISPARITIES IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES THROUGH MONITORING AND REPORTING THE HEALTH STATUS OF MINORITY POPULATIONS, INFORMING AND EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE. ALSO BY MOBILIZING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND ACTIONS, DEVELOPING POLICY AND PLANS TO SUPPORT HEALTH EFFORTS. THERE ARE SIX LOCAL OFFICES THOROUGHOUT THE STATE OF OHIO, AKRON, CLEVELAND, COLUMBUS, DAYTON, TOLEDO AND YOUNGSTOWN. IN 2014 OUR LOCAL OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH BECAME AN OFFICIAL DIVISION OF THE YCHD.**

**MINORITY HEALTH DIRECTOR LEIGH ANN GREENE ADDRESSED CITY COUNCIL ON BLACK ISSUES THAT PRODUCE RACIAL INEQUALITIES IN HEALTH. SHE STATED THAT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PERSONS OF COLOR AND**

MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES THAT BLACKS HAD BEEN MORE ADVERSELY IMPACTED AND HAVE MORE HOSPITALIZATIONS AND DEATHS PER CAPITA THAN ANY OTHER POPULATION.

IN 2019, THROUGH A COLLOBORATION WITH THE YCHD, MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH, AKRON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND MERCY HEALTH THEY BROUGHT IN A NATIONAL COMPANY TO CONDUCT A COMUNNNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT, WHICH IS NOW LOCATED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE. 60% OF AFRICAN AMERICANS WERE DIAGNOSED WITH DIABETES, 58% HAD HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AND 70% WERE EITHER OVER WEIGHT OR OBESE. KEY BARRIERS TO THESE ISSUES WERE LIMITED ACCESS TO GROCERY STORES, COST OF HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS, TRANSPORATION, COST BARRIERS TO ADEQUATE HEALTHCARE SPECIFICALLY PHARMACY, FEARS OF DISCRIMINATION AND MISTRUST OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM.

IN 2018, MAHONING COUNTY HAD THE WORST RATE OF INFANT MORTALITY IN THE STATE OF OHIO AND OHIO WAS LEADING THE NATION IN 2012 AND 2013. INCREASED LEVELS OF CORTISONE WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF WHAT BLACK WOMEN FACED AS A RESULT OF RACISM. IT IS HER HOPE THAT AS THE CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN DECLARES RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND THE STATE OF OHIO HAS DESIGNATED A MINORITY TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS INEQUALITIES, WE BEGIN TO IMPLEMENT AND SUSTAIN PROGRAMMING THAT ENCOURAGES DIALOGUE ON RACISM AND EVENTS OF INCLUSION. HOPEFULLY FUNDING WILL BE DESIGNATED TO EVEN THE PLAYING FIELD SO THAT BLACKS AND OTHER MARGINALIZED GROUPS WILL BE GIVEN THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES.

**CIRV COORDINATOR GUY BURNEY** NOTED THAT THIS RESOLUTION IS NEEDED AND NOTED THE RACIAL INJUSTICES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

**COUNCILWOMAN TURNER** MENTIONED ALL PARTIES INVOLVED IN HELPING CRAFT THE RESOLUTION LANGUAGE.

#### **REMARKS**

**COUNCILMAN OLIVER** MENTIONED THAT PEOPLE SHOULD GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER TO REDUCE RACISM.

**COUNCILMAN HUGHES** STATED THAT HE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTS THE RESOLUTION.

**COUNCILWOMAN TURNER** NOTED THAT SHE APPRECIATES ALL WHO ARE WORKING ON MOVING THE CITY FORWARD ON THIS ISSUE.

**COUNCILWOMAN MCNALLY** ADDED SHE WOULD LIKE HER COLLEAGUES TO CONSIDER CREATING A COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES.

**COUNCILWOMAN DAVIS** STATED THAT THIS RESOLUTION IS A GUIDE FOR ALL CITIZENS OF YOUNGSTOWN.

**COUNCILWOMAN ADAMCZAK** NOTED THAT PEOPLE NEED TO UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT THIS RESOLUTION IS.

**MAYOR TITO BROWN** STATED THAT THERE NEEDS TO BE TANGIBLE ACTION PLANS.

**COUNCILMAN RAY** ADDED THAT HE SHARES THE REST OF HIS COLLEAGUES SENTIMENTS.

**UPON MOTION COUNCIL ADJOURNED.**

**APPROVED: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020**

  
CLERK

  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL